



BLACK BOLT™

#7

SALADIN AHMED
FRAZER IRVING

MARVEL

*"Black Bolt has
been excellent.
High-concept, trippy,
early-Gaiman-esque."*

- G. Willow Wilson



is the king of the Inhumans, an off-splinter of humanity imbued with amazing abilities. But these gifts sometimes come with a price: Black Bolt's slightest whisper can shatter mountains. His voice has destroyed many lives, but it has saved countless others.

When the Silent King speaks, the world hears him.

Black Bolt has spent months in an alien prison, thanks to the treachery of his brother, Maximus the Mad. There he was tortured, killed and resurrected over and over again—until he and his fellow prisoners broke free and destroyed their Jailer.

But freedom came at a cost. Crusher Creel, A.K.A. the Absorbing Man—a villain to some, and yet a friend to Black Bolt in that strange place—lost his life in the jailbreak, and Black Bolt himself lost his powerful voice.

With a heavy heart, Black Bolt now turns toward Earth. He is accompanied by the teleporting dog Lockjaw and the psychic alien child Blinky. An ancient Inhuman ship carries their wounded party home...

Writer
SALADIN AHMED

Guest Artist
FRAZER IRVING

Letterer
VC's CLAYTON COWLES

Cover Artist
CHRISTIAN WARD

Design
NICHOLAS RUSSELL

Logo Design
JAY BOWEN

Associate Editor
SARAH BRUNSTAD

Editor
WIL MOSS

BLACK BOLT created by
STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

Executive Editor
TOM BREVOORT

Editor in Chief
AXEL ALONSO

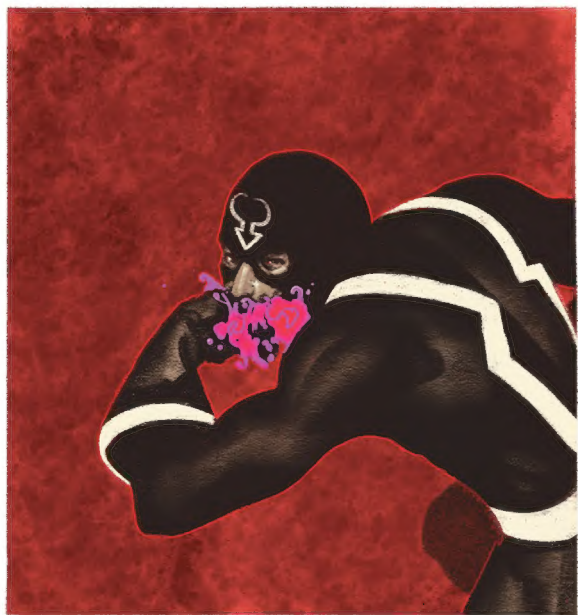
Chief Creative Officer
JOE QUESADA

President
DAN BUCKLEY

Executive Producer
ALAN FINE



NAME YOUR CRIMES!
REPENT YOUR CRIMES!



A close-up of Black Bolt's face and upper torso. He is lying down, looking up with a look of intense fear and distress. His mouth is slightly open, and his hands are near his face. The background is dark with glowing, swirling golden lines.

BLACK BOLT WAKES
IN TERROR.

ANOTHER DREAM. HIS
TRAINING KEEPS HIM
FROM CRYING OUT,
THOUGH IF HE DID, IT
WOULDN'T MATTER.
HIS VOICE IS GONE.

Black Bolt is shown from the back, cowering in a fetal position. He is hunched over, with his head buried in his knees. The background features a large, glowing golden circle and swirling lines.

SINCE CHILDHOOD, BLACK BOLT HAS
SMOTHERED HIS NIGHTMARES FOR
FEAR HIS SCREAMS WOULD DESTROY
THOSE AROUND HIM.

NOW THEY
THREATEN TO
SMOTHER HIM.

A close-up of Black Bolt's face, partially obscured by deep shadows. He is looking down, and his expression is one of despair. The background has the same swirling golden lines.

HE KNOWS HOW BADLY HE
NEEDS REST, BUT HE HAS
COME TO FEAR SLEEP.

Black Bolt is shown in profile, standing and looking up at a starry night sky. He is wearing a dark, form-fitting suit with white trim. The sky is a deep blue with many stars and nebulae.

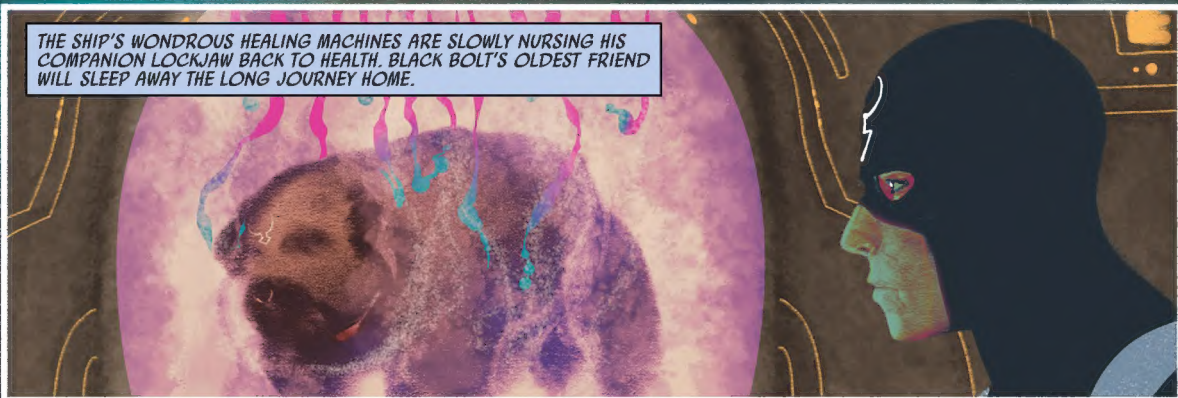
BETTER TO FIND
WHAT PEACE HE
CAN STARE AT
THE STARS.

THE ANCIENT SHIP IS OF
INHUMAN MAKE, TAKEN
FROM THE PRISON.



THE PRISON WHERE THE JAILER
TORE BLACK BOLT'S EARTH-SPLITTING
VOICE FROM HIS BODY. THE PRISON
THAT HAS LEFT THE MIDNIGHT KING
A SHADOW.

THE SHIP'S WONDROUS HEALING MACHINES ARE SLOWLY NURSING HIS
COMPANION LOCKJAW BACK TO HEALTH. BLACK BOLT'S OLDEST FRIEND
WILL SLEEP AWAY THE LONG JOURNEY HOME.



BLACK BOLT IS NOT SO LUCKY.
THE MACHINES CAN'T ERASE THE
TERROR OF HIS MEMORIES.



NOR CAN THEY EASE
HIS WORRIES FOR
THE FUTURE.







BLACK BOLT DOESN'T
KNOW WHAT THIS
MONSTER IS OR WHERE
IT CAME FROM.

HE KNOWS ONLY THAT
IT WANTS TO HARM THE
CHILD. AND THAT HE
CANNOT ALLOW.



HIS VOICE IS GONE--BUT
HE HAS OTHER POWERS
AT HIS DISPOSAL.



AS QUICKLY AS IT APPEARED,
THE MONSTER IS GONE.
BUT WHERE, BLACK BOLT
WONDERS, DID IT--

THE
GIRL-THING WILL
PAY WHAT IT
OWES!



THE
GIRL-THING OWES
LONDAL THE RICH! IT WILL
PAY US IN BLOOD! IT
WILL PAY US IN
SKIN!



BLINKY HAS DESCRIBED THIS "LONDAL THE RICH" TO
BLACK BOLT BEFORE. HER FORMER CAPTOR AND
TORMENTOR, THE MAN WHO CAST HER--A CHILD--
INTO THE JAILER'S BOTTOMLESS PIT OF TERROR.



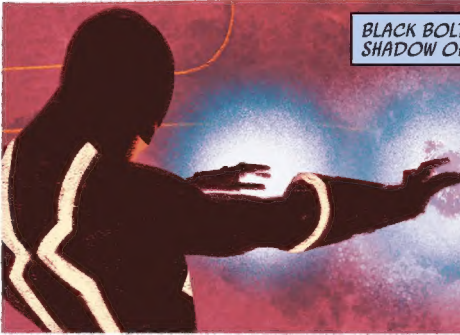
HOW HAD HE
BOARDED THE SHIP?



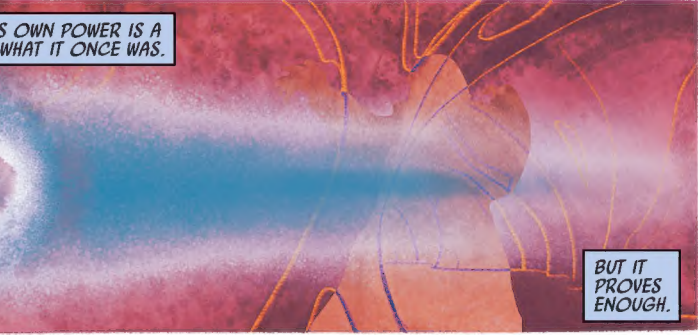
IT DOESN'T MATTER,
BLACK BOLT DECIDES.



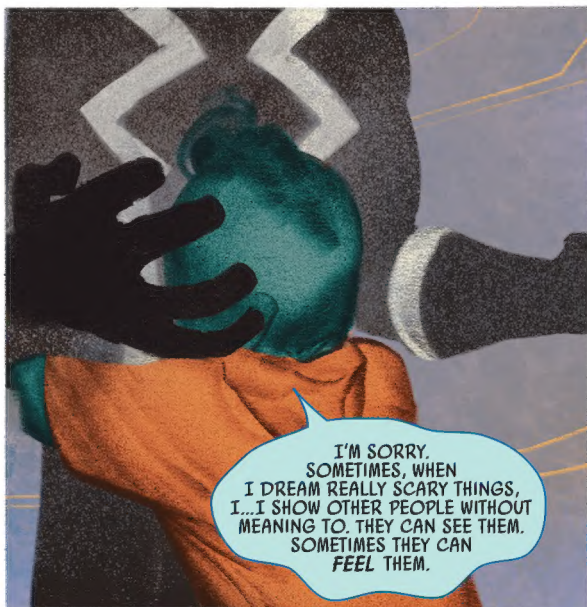
WHAT MATTERS IS
THAT THIS MONSTER
HAS TO DIE.



BLACK BOLT'S OWN POWER IS A
SHADOW OF WHAT IT ONCE WAS.



BUT IT
PROVES
ENOUGH.





I WISH I
COULD BATHE. I
MISS THE BAZAAR. I CAN'T
BELIEVE YOUR PEOPLE USED
MOLECULAR CLEANSERS
ON THIS SHIP. NO CHANGE
OF CLOTHES? NO HOT
WATER? YUCK.



BLACK BOLT SITS
WITH THE CHILD
UNTIL SHE DRIFTS
OFF TO SLEEP.



HIS OWN SLEEP
IS A LONG TIME
COMING...

...BUT AT LAST
IT COMES.



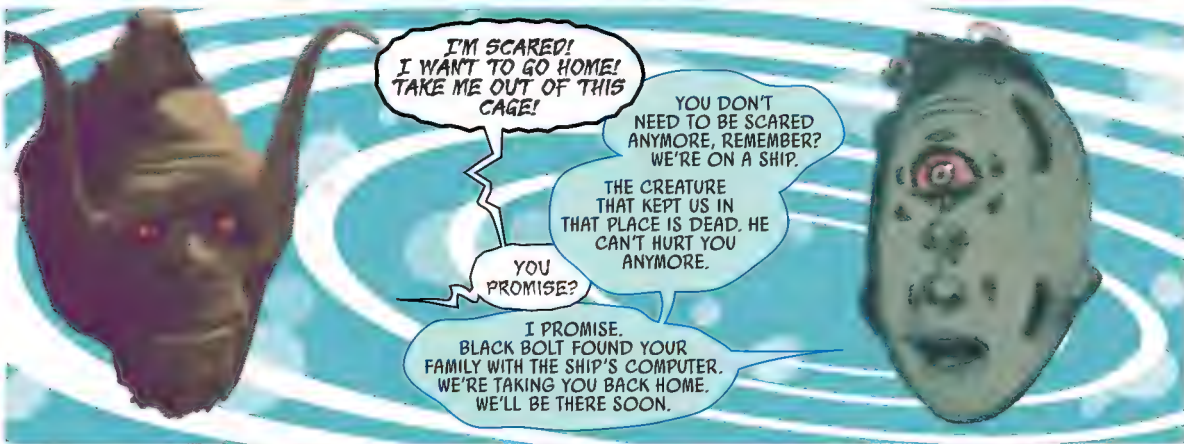
**THOOM
THOOM**

IT DOES NOT
LAST LONG.



THAT'S
NOT ONE
OF MY DREAMS.
IT'S COMING FROM
THE CARGO
HOLD!

**BOOM
BOOM**



HAVR/ LATER.

PING
PING
PING
PING

OH! WE'RE
HERE!

THERE
IT IS!

SYSTEMS
SAY IT'S SAFE TO
BREATHE. CHILLY,
THOUGH.

SO I
GUESS WE LOOK
FOR--

GRRRRR...

GRUUUUUK!

BLACK
BOLT!





THEIR CRAFT IS SWIFT, BUT EARTH IS FAR. FOR LONG HOURS THEY GLIDE AMONG THE STARS.

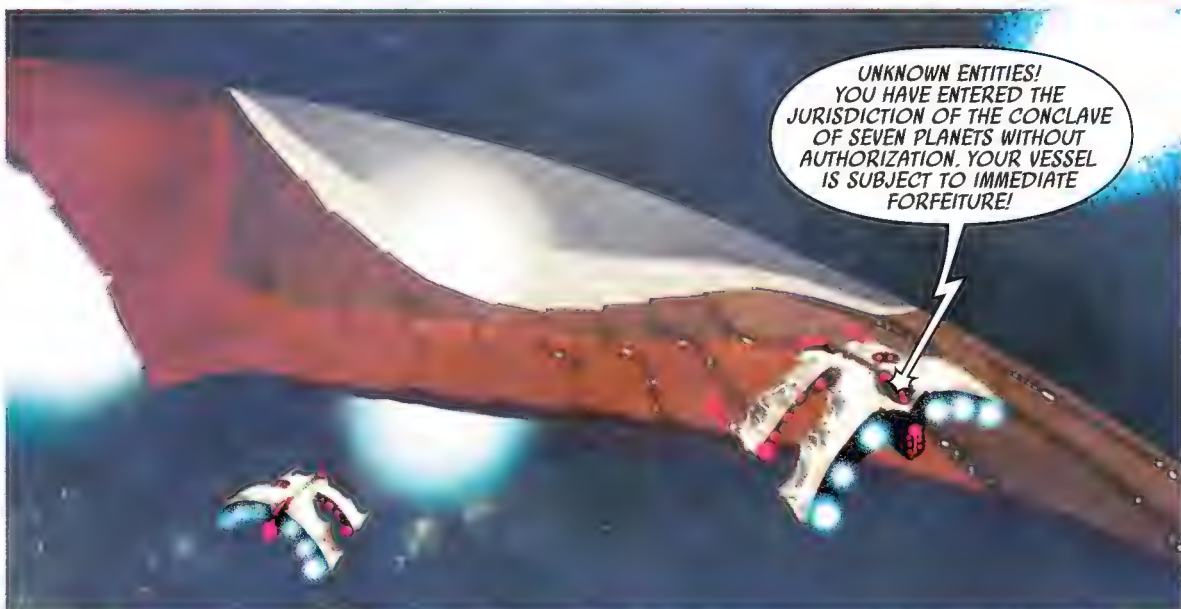
BLACK BOLT THINKS OF THE CREATURE THEY RESCUED, AND OF THIS CHILD WHOM HE HAS PROMISED TO CARE FOR.



BREEEP
BREEEP

UNTIL...

WHAT
NOW? AN
ATTACK?



UNKNOWN ENTITIES!
YOU HAVE ENTERED THE
JURISDICTION OF THE CONCLAVE
OF SEVEN PLANETS WITHOUT
AUTHORIZATION. YOUR VESSEL
IS SUBJECT TO IMMEDIATE
FORFEITURE!



FORFEITURE?
BUT WE NEED THIS SHIP
TO GET HOME!

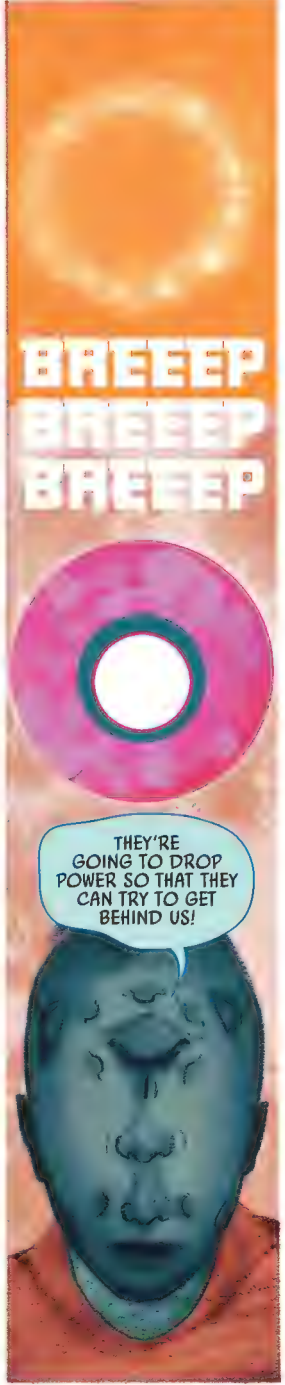
FAILURE
TO COMPLY
CONSTITUTES YOUR
AGREEMENT TO
SUMMARY
JUDGMENT!



SUMMARY
JUDGMENT? WHAT
DOES THAT--

BLAM
BLAM

WHIRRRRR



BLACK BOLT DOES NOT WANT TO KILL THESE BEINGS, FOR THEY ARE THE RIGHTFUL AUTHORITY IN THIS PLACE, AND DESPITE EVERYTHING, THAT STILL MATTERS TO HIM.

BLACK BOLT, THEY'RE ABOUT TO FIRE!



HE DOES NOT WANT TO SNUFF OUT A DOZEN LIVES IN FRONT OF A CHILD WHO HAS SEEN TOO MUCH ALREADY.



BUT HE HAS ONLY MOMENTS. HE ADJUSTS HIS AIM BASED ON BLINKY'S DIRECTIONS.



AND HE DOES WHAT HE MUST.



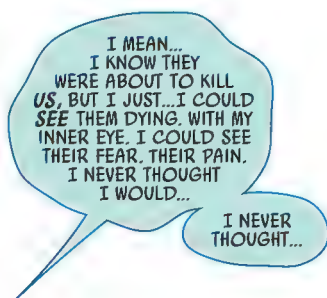
KA-
THOOM



KA-
THOOM

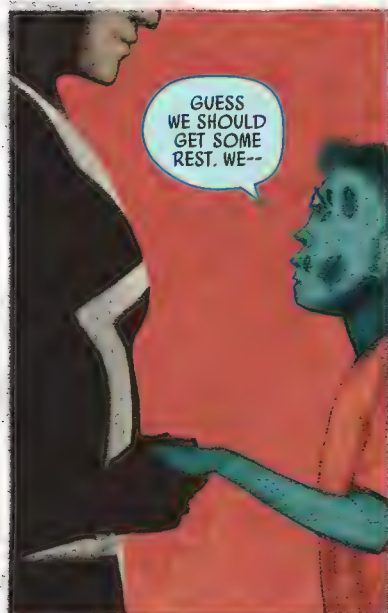
KA-
THOOM



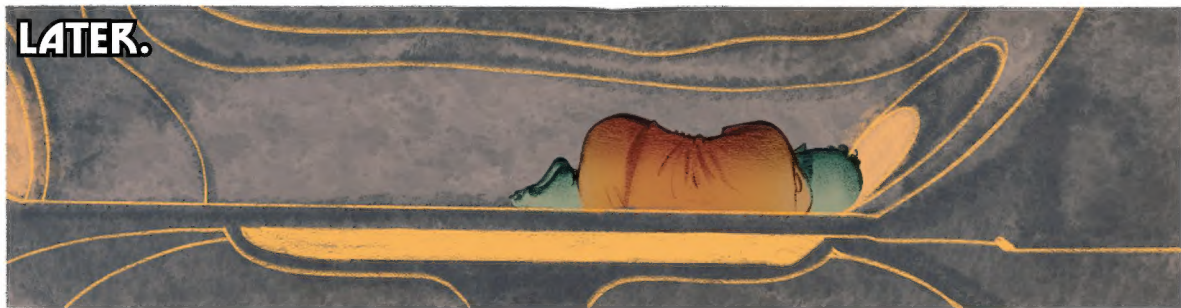


I NEVER THOUGHT...

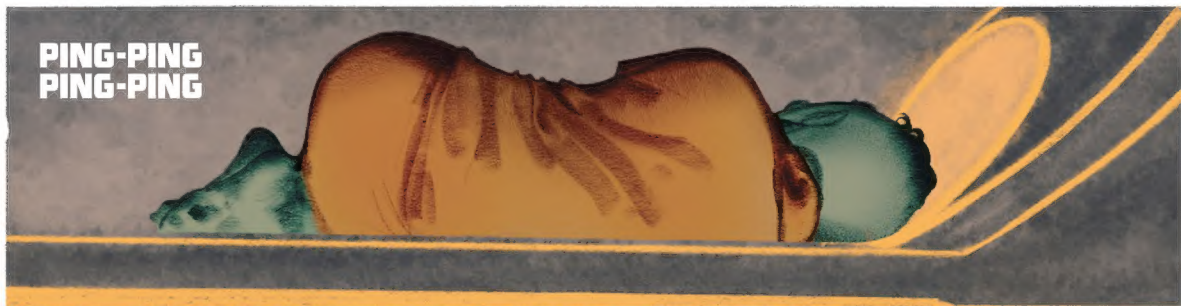




LATER.



PING-PING
PING-PING



PING-PING
PING-PING



BLACK
BOLT?

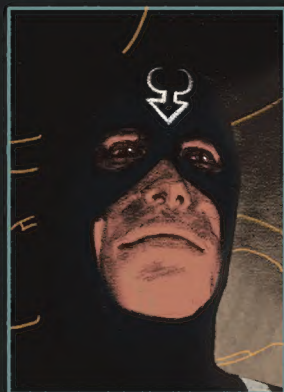
WHAT'S
GOING ON?
ARE WE--



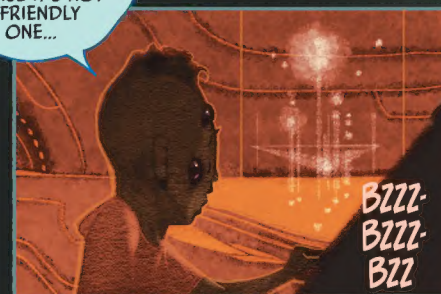
OH.
OH, IT'S
BEAUTIFUL.
THIS IS IT, ISN'T
IT? THE PLACE
YOU'RE
FROM?



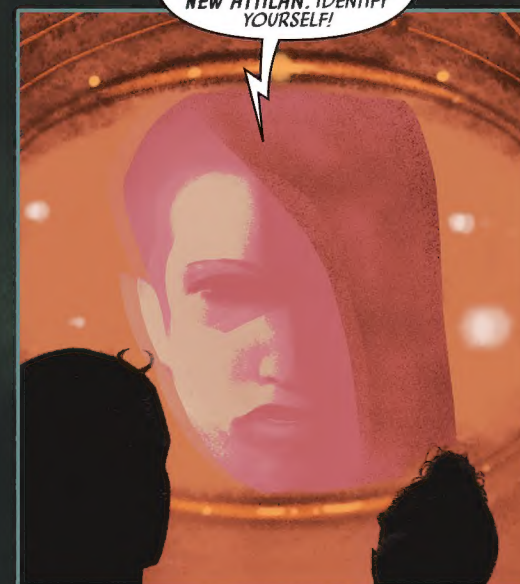
HOME. BLACK BOLT HAD
NEARLY FORGOTTEN WHAT
THE WORD MEANT.



UH,
BLACK BOLT?
WE'RE RECEIVING A
TRANSMISSION, AND
I SENSE IT'S NOT
A FRIENDLY
ONE...

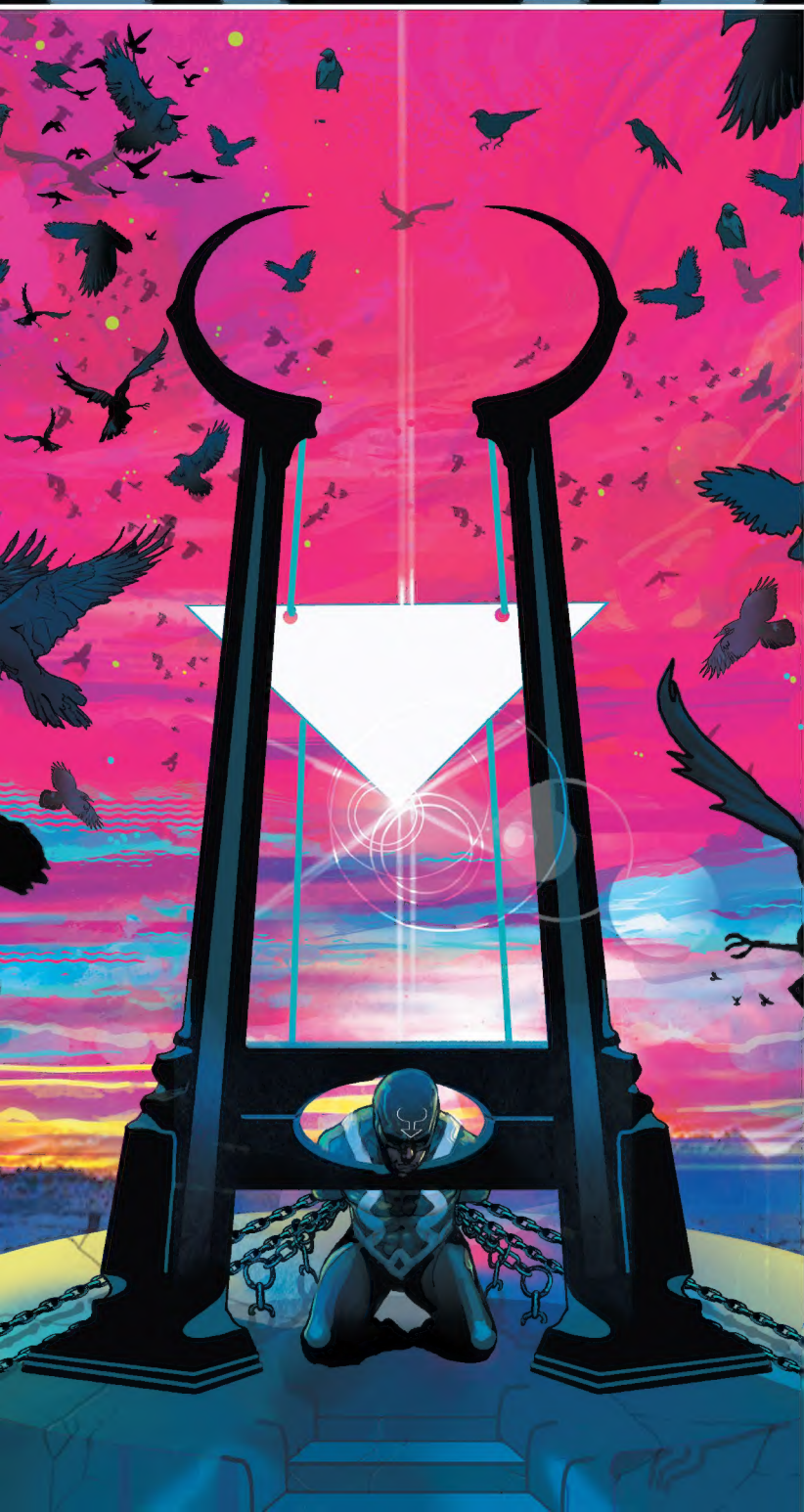


INHUMAN VESSEL!
YOU ARE APPROACHING
THE SOVEREIGN NATION OF
NEW ATTILAN. IDENTIFY
YOURSELF!



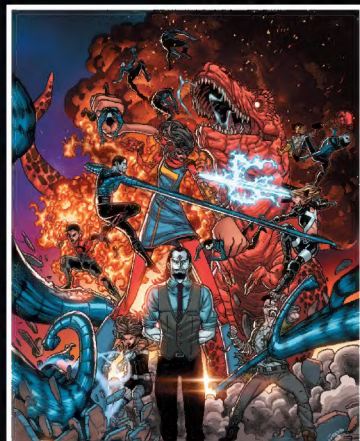
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT:
BLACK BOLT
#8

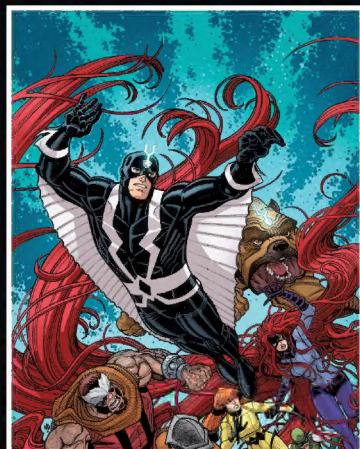


FOR MORE
INHUMANS,
CHECK OUT:

ROYALS #10



SECRET WARRIORS #8



INHUMANS: ONCE AND FUTURE
KINGS #5

• Tour •
THE SEVEN SEAS

With

**BLACK MANTA
EMPIRE**



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